City Council

Notice of Motion

| MM24.3 | ACTION | | | Ward:28 |
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Transition Support for Far Enough Farm - by Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

- * Notice of this Motion has been given.
- * This Motion is subject to referral to the Government Management Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.

Recommendations

Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

- 1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to continue to operate Far Enough Farm through to the end of 2012 and to accept donations for that purpose.
- 2. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to the Government Management Committee with the results of the Centreville attractions Request for Proposals on options for the ongoing operation of Far Enough Farm.

Summary

For over 50 years, Far Enough Farm has provided a unique experience for residents and visitors to Toronto, allowing families to see, interact with, and learn about a variety of animals. Located on Centre Island, this attraction houses typical barnyard animals, such as sheep, goats, chickens, and horses, as well as unusual animals, like emus and peacocks.

The 2012 Operating Budget cut funding for Far Enough Farm as of June 30, 2012. When the current contract for Centreville Amusement Park expires later this year, Far Enough Farm will be included in that Request For Proposal (RFP). A Request for Expressions of Interest was released, seeking a short term operator until the Centreville RFP is awarded, but there was no interest in taking on the attraction for such a short period.

Residents from across the City, along with area stakeholders, are working to preserve Far Enough Farm. To date, the Facebook page in support of Far Enough Farm has garnered 1,286 "likes". An account has been opened at the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation to receive donations that will fund the operations. Opportunities exist to raise funds on site, with donation boxes, and throughout the City and beyond, through donation forms and appeals distributed through various lists. The surrounding community is committed to fundraising for the Farm, and area stakeholders have expressed interest in contributing.

As fundraising efforts continue, it is requested that Parks, Forestry and Recreation continue operating Far Enough Farm until the issue of the RFP for Centreville Amusement Park later this year.

(Submitted to City Council on June 6 and 7, 2012 as MM24.3)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM24.3